KEY

- For Mainframes
- For UNIX/OpenVMS

KEY for Mainframes
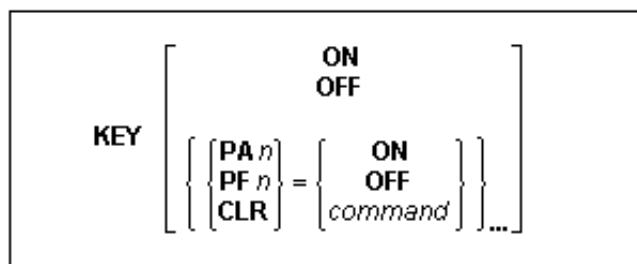
```
        ┌                                    ┐
        │           ON                       │
        │           OFF                      │
KEY     │  ┌ ┌ PA n ┐   ┌ ON      ┐ ┐        │
        │  │ │ PF n │ = │ OFF     │ │        │
        │  │ │ CLR  │   │ command │ │        │
        └  └ └      ┘   └         ┘ ┘ ...    ┘
```

With the KEY command, you can assign functions to keys on the keyboard of video terminals. Moreover, you can change, activate and deactivate the assigned functions.

This is possible for the following keys: the PA keys PA1 to PA3, the PF keys PF1 to PF24, and the CLEAR key.

To each of these keys you can assign one of the following functions:

- a Natural system command,
- a Natural terminal command,
- a user-defined command.

Natural will executed the assigned command whenever you press the corresponding key in command mode (NEXT prompt).

> **Note:**
> Assignments made with the system command KEY are totally independent of assignments made with a SET KEY statement in a program.
> Function-key assignments can also be made by the Natural administrator via the **profile parameter** KEY.

The section below covers the following topics:

- Assigning Commands
- Activating/Deactivating All Keys - KEY ON/OFF
- Activating/Deactivating Individual Keys - KEY *key*=ON/OFF

Natural Utilities for Mainframes
Assigning Commands

If you enter only the command KEY (without parameters), the "Function-Key Assignments" screen will be displayed. On this screen, you can assign commands to the individual keys by entering them in the "Command" column.

To assign a different command to a key, you overwrite the existing entry in the "Command" column.

To delete an command assignment, you delete the entry in the "Command" column or overwrite it with blanks.

You can also assign commands to individual keys by specifying them directly with the KEY command; that is, you specify KEY *key*=*command* (*key* being the name of the key and *command* the name of the command that is to be assigned to the key). For example:

    KEY PF1=CLEAR PF2=MENU

If the assigned command contains blanks, it has to enclosed in apostrophes. For example:

   PF13='UPDATE OFF'

Activating/Deactivating All Keys - KEY ON/OFF

With the command KEY OFF you deactivate all function-key assignments: if you the press a function key, Natural will return an appropriate message indicating that the key is not active.

With the command KEY ON you re-activate all function-key assignments that have previously been deactivated with KEY OFF.

You can also activate/deactivate the keys by overwriting the entry ON/OFF in the field "Activate Keys" at the top right-hand corner of the "Function-Key Assignments" screen.

Note:
The CLEAR key cannot be activated/deactivated. Unless another function is assigned to it, it has the same function as the **terminal command** %%. The command KEY ON/OFF and the "Activate Keys" field have no effect on the CLEAR key.

Activating/Deactivating Individual Keys - KEY *key*=ON/OFF

With the command KEY *key*=OFF you deactivate the command assigned to a specific *key*. For example:
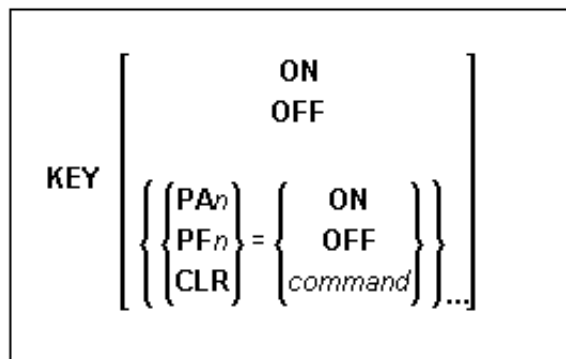
    KEY PF24=OFF

With the command KEY *key*=ON you re-activate a previously deactivated command assignment. For example:

    KEY PF24=ON

Note:
The command KEY CLR=ON/OFF is not possible (see also note above).

KEY for UNIX/OpenVMS

```
         ┌                              ┐
         │          ON                  │
         │          OFF                 │
         │                              │
KEY      │ ┌ ┌PAn┐     ┌  ON     ┐ ┐    │
         │ │ │PFn│ = { │  OFF    │ │    │
         │ └ └CLR┘     └ command ┘ ┘... │
         └                              ┘
```

- Assigning Commands
- Activating/Deactivating All Keys - KEY ON/OFF
- Activating/Deactivating Individual Keys - KEY *key*=ON/OFF

With the KEY command, you can assign functions to keys on the keyboard of video terminals. Moreover, you can change, activate and deactivate the assigned functions.

This is possible for the following keys: the PA keys PA1 to PA3, the PF keys PF1 to PF24, and the CLEAR key.

To each of these keys you can assign one of the following functions:

- a Natural system command,
- a Natural terminal command,
- a user-defined command.

Natural will execute the assigned command whenever you press the corresponding key in command mode (Direct Command window).

Note:
Assignments made with the system command KEY are totally independent of assignments made with a SET KEY statement in a program.

Function-key assignments can also be made by the Natural administrator via the **profile parameter** KEY.

Assigning Commands

If you enter only the command **KEY** (without parameters), the "Function-Key Assignments" screen will be displayed. On this screen, you can assign commands to the individual keys.

To assign a different command to a key, you overwrite the existing entry.

To delete a command assignment, you delete the entry or overwrite it with blanks.

You can also assign commands to individual keys by specifying them directly with the KEY command; that is, you specify **KEY***key*=*command* (*key* being the name of the key and *command* the name of the command that is to be assigned to the key). For example:

KEY PF1=CLEAR

If the assigned command contains blanks, it has to be enclosed in apostrophes. For example:

KEY PF13='UPDATE OFF'

Activating/Deactivating All Keys - KEY ON/OFF

With the command **KEY OFF** you deactivate all function-key assignments: if you press a function key, Natural will return an appropriate message indicating that the key is not active.

With the command **KEY ON** you re-activate all function-key assignments that have previously been deactivated with KEY OFF.

You can also activate/deactivate the keys by overwriting the entry ON/OFF in the field "Activate Keys" at the top right-hand corner of the "Function-Key Assignments" screen.

Activating/Deactivating Individual Keys - KEY *key*=ON/OFF

With the command **KEY***key*=**OFF** you deactivate the command assigned to a specific *key*. For example:

KEY PF24=OFF

With the command **KEY***key*=**ON** you re-activate a previously deactivated command assignment. For example:

KEY PF24=ON

When you deactivated an individual key (for example PF24=OFF), then deactived all keys (KEY=OFF) and then activate all keys again (KEY=ON), the individually deactivated key is activated, too.